

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 INT-05 EA-10 PM-05 PA-01
L-03 H-01 SMS-01 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 /085 W
-----001393 071637Z /43

R 071507Z SEP 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3238
CINCPACREP GUAM
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 03494

DEPT PASS INTERIOR FOR OTA AND OMSN

CINCPACREP PASS HICOM AND STATUS LNO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, PDEV, UNTC, UNSC, TQ
SUBJECT: SOVIET SUGGESTS SC DEBATE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL
- REPORT

1. UKUN COUNSELLOR BYATT WHO SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF RECENT UN TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL VISITING MISSION TO THE TRUST TERRITORY TO OBSERVE THE CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM, HAS INFORMED US OF A CONVERSATION HE HAD AUGUST 24 WITH SOVIET DEPUTY PERM REP FOKINE. FOKINE TOOK UP WHAT HAS BECOME A RECURRING THEME IN SOVIET STATEMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT IN RECENT MONTHS, I.E. THE NEED FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO BECOME INVOLVED IN MATTERS RELATING TO THE TRUST TERRITORY, AND SUGGESTED THE COUNCIL THIS YEAR SHOULD DEBATE THE REPORT OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL. BYATT MADE APPROPRIATE NEGATIVE REMARKS. FOKINE ALSO ARGUED THAT THE MICRONESIANS' ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE ON THE U.S. HAD IN EFFECT PREJUDGED THEIR DECISION ON FUTURE STATUS.

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2. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF BYATT'S REPORT TO THE FCO WHICH HE PROVIDED TO US ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS:

- BEGIN TEXT: MR. FOKINE OF THE SOVIET MISSION TOOK ME TO LUNCH TODAY TO PUMP ME ABOUT MY RECENT VISIT TO MICRONESIA WITH THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL VISITING MISSION. I

EXPATIIATED AT SOME LENGTH ON THE ADVANTAGES OF A VISIT AS ENABLING ONE TO APPRECIATE THE VERY GREAT DIFFERENCES (ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, CULTURAL, LINGUISTIC, POLITICAL, ETC.) BETWEEN THE VARIOUS DISTRICTS. I SAID THAT WE HAD BEEN CONSTANTLY ASKED WHY THERE WAS NO SOVIET MEMBER OF OUR MISSION AND THAT MR. ISRAELYAN'S VISIT IN 1973 WAS STILL REMEMBERED. MR. FOKINE TOLD ME "IN CONFIDENCE" THAT THE SOVIET MISSION HAD RECOMMENDED PARTICIPATION, BUT THAT MOSCOW HAD RULED AGAINST IT. HE SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF PARTICIPATION IN NEXT YEAR'S REGULAR VISITING MISSION HAD NOT BEEN CONSIDERED YET.

- HE ARGUED THAT THE DECISION OF THE MICRONESIANS ABOUT THEIR FUTURE STATUS HAD BEEN PRE-JUDGED BY THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY HAD BECOME ECONOMICALLY DEPENDENT UPON THE UNITED STATES. I AGREED THAT MICRONESIA COULD NOT CONTINUE TO OPERATE ON ITS CURRENT ECONOMIC LEVEL EXCEPT ON THE BASIS THAT IT CONTINUED TO RECEIVE SUBSTANTIAL SUMS OF MONEY FROM OUTSIDE, BUT THE FACT WAS THAT DURING OUR VISIT WE HAD DETECTED NO SIGN OF ANY DESIRE FOR INDEPENDENCE. I SAID THAT I HAD BEEN ASKED ONE QUESTION AT A PUBLIC MEETING WHICH IMPLIED THAT THE SPEAKER WAS ATTRACTED BY THE IDEA OF INDEPENDENCE BUT THAT, SO FAR AS I KNEW, THAT EXPERIENCE WAS UNIQUE: AT ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS, I AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE MISSION HAD BEEN BOMBARDED WITH QUESTIONS WHICH REVEALED AN ANXIETY THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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THE NEW CONSTITUTION MIGHT MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR MICRONESIA TO CONTINUE IN CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES. I THOUGHT IT BETTER NOT TO ADD THAT WE HAD BEEN FREQUENTLY ASKED WHY THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT COULD NOT CONTINUE INDEFINITELY. WE HAD SOME RATHER UNINFORMED DISCUSSION ABOUT THE RESPECTIVE COLONIAL METHODS OF THE BRITISH AND THE AMERICANS IN THE PACIFIC.

- MR. FOKINE TOOK UP THE THEME OF RECENT SOVIET STATEMENTS: THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL OUGHT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN DISCUSSION OF MICRONESIA. HE WENT A STAGE FURTHER THAN THEIR PUBLIC STATEMENTS HAVE DONE BY SAYING THAT HE THOUGHT THE SECURITY COUNCIL OUGHT THIS YEAR, TO DEBATE THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL. HIS LINE WAS THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL WAS GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE THE FINAL DECISION ABOUT TERMINATION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP AGREEMENT AND THAT IT WAS TIME IT BEGAN TO INFORM ITSELF. THE SOVIETS HAD NOT YET GIVEN THOUGHT TO WHAT THE OUTCOME OF SUCH A DEBATE SHOULD BE (I INTERJECTED THAT I DID NOT SEE THAT THERE WAS ANYTHING THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL COULD DO AT THIS STAGE OTHER THAN MERELY TAKE NOTE OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL'S REPORT). HE

SAID, RATHER UNCONVINCINGLY, THAT THE LAST THING THE SOVIETS WANTED WAS TO MAKE DIFFICULTIES, SINCE THAT WOULD UPSET THE MICRONESIANS AS WELL AS THE UNITED STATES; THEY WISHED TO AVOID A SOVIET/AMERICAN WRANGLE. I TOLD HIM THAT WE HAD DRAWN LONDON'S ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY, BUT THAT NO DECISIONS HAD BEEN TAKEN AS TO WHEN OR HOW THAT ROLE COULD BEST BE DISCHARGED.

- I WAS LEFT WONDERING WHETHER THE INCREASED LEVEL OF SOVIET INTEREST IN MICRONESIAN AFFAIRS MAY BE DUE TO

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MR. FOKINE'S OWN INTEREST AS MUCH AS TO DECISIONS TAKEN
IN MOSCOW. END TEXT. YOUNG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN03494
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780991/aaaacxmq.tel
Line Count: 155
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: dcc5de55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1513660
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET SUGGESTS SC DEBATE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL - REPORT
TAGS: PORG, PDEV, TQ, UNTC, UNSC, TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL
To: STATE CINCPACREP GUAM
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dcc5de55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014